



**PAN**

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PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS  
*A non-profit organization promoting education in numismatics.*



Why a Three-Cent Coin?...see page 12

**CLARION**

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VOL.18, NO. 3 (#63) DEC. 2001

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# *President's Message*

Dear PAN Members:

Our 23rd annual Convention, held in Monroeville, PA. October 26-28 was a smashing success! With the tragic events of September 11, the sluggish economy, and reports from dealers and collectors who have attended other shows recently, we did not know what to expect. We spent \$1,000 extra on local ads to draw the public in - and we were really surprised!

Attendance was only 31 people less than our record high -- which places our two 2001 shows at an average attendance of 3,400. This is definitely good for the show, good for the club, good for the dealers, and good for the collectors.

The weather certainly didn't hurt. Our brave dealers battled temps in the teens, and wicked winds on set-up morning -- without a single complaint. I was in shorts and a T-shirt on Thursday, and the dealers came in with gloves and winter coats on Friday. Talk about a dip in temperature!

There was absolutely no dip in activity at this show, however. There were 250 already registered at the opening bell on Friday, standing in line to gain admittance to the show. And they kept pouring in the whole weekend.

One dealer from out-of-state told me he had set up at four shows since the September 11 attack -- and all of them were poorly attended, with everyone just standing around with their hands in their pockets. Then, he came to our show, and it was "like night and day." He did incredible business at PAN - as usual! He said that this means either that everything is back to normal...OR Pittsburgh is the best place for a coin show.

## THANK YOU.

That is probably the very nicest thing anyone could ever say to me. I have always said that PAN is the best collector show around.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Remember: Due to a conflict with the Michigan Numismatic Society, PAN has moved the date of its Spring 2002 Convention. Our new date is May 3, 4 and 5 -- one week prior to Mothers' Day. Mark your calendars NOW.**

\* \* \* \* \*

As you know, we now have a new state Governor. Tom Ridge has become the head of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. I do not yet know how this will impact our fight against the sales tax on coins and bullion in the upcoming budget. I have spoken to our lobbyist, and she says it's too early to tell -- that we will know more after the holidays. I'll keep you posted.

\* \* \* \* \*

The fourth and final issue of the PAN-DECKS was released at the October show. Any youngsters already collecting the informative cards may now request the final ones to finish their sets.

Now, we will also offer the deck as a complete set to those youngsters new to the hobby. The set of 12 cards is free to any young person under the age of 18. All they need to do is request the complete set, and enclose a stamped, self-addressed business-size envelope -- with 68 cents postage for the return mailing. For this complete set, we no longer require that the youngsters live in Pennsylvania. Every young collector in any state can now enjoy this great educational tool -- as long as they last, of course.

Happy Collecting!

Kathy Sarosi, President

P.S. Don't forget to put the Spring PAN Convention on your calendar for 2002 --and the dates (as reported above) are May 3, 4 and 5, once again in Monroeville, PA.

SEE YOU THERE!

# PAN COIN SHOW

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION of NUMISMATISTS

## MAY 3, 4, 5

2002



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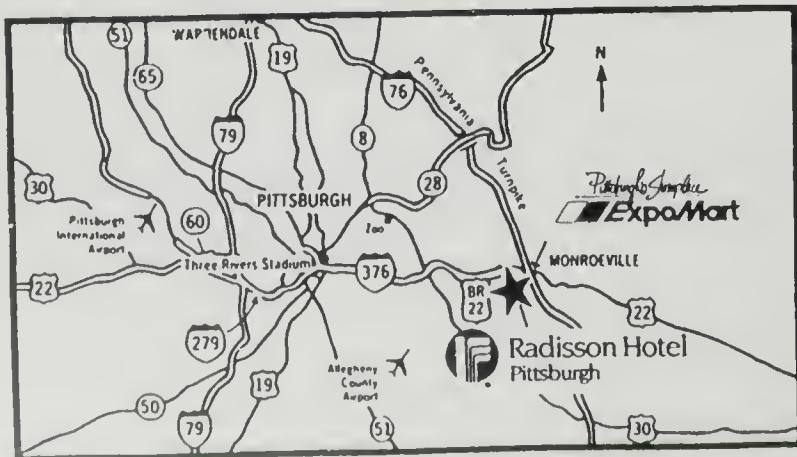
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# Kathy Sarosi Wins Mason Award

Kathy Sarosi, President of the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists, has been named the latest winner of the Walt Mason Award for Numismatic Achievement. This award (not necessarily presented every year) singles out an outstanding person in the hobby from the mid-Atlantic area.

The award was presented at the PAN Awards Banquet, held October 27 in Monroeville, PA, during the annual fall PAN Convention. The award was presented by Len Harsel, from the Virginia Numismatic Association, who administers the award. Following is Mr. Harsel's citation:

This year's award is based on Ms. Sarosi's continuing and enthusiastic involvement in numismatics which spans a period of over 20 years; continuing to promote numismatics through education; and fighting for sales tax relief for the collector and dealer. Ms. Sarosi is currently President of PAN.

The Walt Mason Award was established in 1988 to honor one of the most distinguished numismatists in the middle Atlantic area. Mason was active in the region for more than 30 years, and won widespread affection and regard for his personal as well as numismatic qualities



Kathy Sarosi receives the prestigious Mason Award from Len Harsel.

and was known as a "collector's collector."

The criteria for the award require contributions to the numismatic hobby over a period of years, including open-handed help to collectors of all ages and the sharing of information and the pleasures of numismatics.

Nominations for next year's award will be accepted Jan. 1 to July 1. Nominations may be made by anyone, but the nominee must be active in the mid-Atlantic area of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia and the Carolinas. For info and award criteria: Len Harsel, PO Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

The PAN Conventions continue to break records! As noted by President Kathy Sarosi in her column, attendance was great - once again - for both of our 2001 shows.

At our Fall, 2001 show, despite the shocking news that occurred for the U.S. in September, the number of visitors was down just slightly in comparison with our record-breaking Spring show attendance.

Once again, we had over 125 dealer tables, with dealers coming to Monroeville, PA from 23 states.

### Terrific Exhibits

Besides the great assortment of top dealers, and a great attendance, the October 26-28 PAN Convention had an outstanding number of top-quality educational exhibits - which included U.S. and foreign coins and paper money, medals and tokens, military payment certificates, and elongated coins.

Exhibit awards went to John Eshbach (first place), Jerry Kochel (2nd) and Sam Deep (3rd) - although the depth and quality of the exhibits might well have resulted in other selections of winners on another day. Fine exhibits were also shown by Wayne Homren, Ray Dillard, William Yanchick, Skip Culleiton and Dick Duncan



John Eshbach (left) accepts the top exhibit award from Don Cullucci, PAN's Chairman of the Board.

The "People's Choice" award (decided by the votes of visitors to the show) went to Jerry Kochel for his exhibit of early U.S. Large Cents.

### "Coins 4 Kids"

PAN's Coins 4 Kids program continues to be extremely popular - and it's becoming more so at every show. There were over 100 youngsters and parents in the meeting room for the two-hour program on Saturday afternoon - where the youngsters learned facts about numismatics from PAN officers as well as guest speaker, Bob Evans, the Chief Scientist and Vice President of the Columbus-America Discovery Group -- that recovered

gold treasures valued at millions of dollars from the wreckage of the S.S. Central America. The final "PAN-DECKS" were also distributed to the young people at the meeting. Those latest PAN-DECKS are pictured elsewhere in this issue.

And again, a big attraction to the kids was the opportunity to take home numismatic literature and prizes -- in fact, enough that every youngster won something educational or valuable (or both).



Two happy youngsters display the coin replicas they received in the drawing at "Coins 4 Kids" program.

Bob Evans also discussed the salvaging of the Central America at the Saturday evening banquet. See the separate article about his remarks in this issue of the *CLARION*.

Another article also reviews the award that President Kathy Sarosi received -- the Walt Mason Award, recognizing an outstanding numismatist from the east coast.



At banquet, Dick Duncan (left) receives Gilroy Roberts award from Charles ("Skip") Culleiton.

Another impressive award presented at the Saturday evening banquet was the Gilroy Roberts plaque, which reads:

"PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF NUMISMATISTS Presents the Gilroy Roberts Award for Excellence in Numismatic Education."

And following those words, the name on the award was "Richard B. Duncan." Dick is, of course, the Editor of this publication, the *CLARION*.

As our President, Kathy Sarosi, says in her remarks, the PAN Convention was a smashing success -- in spite of dealers relating the experience of dismal shows occurring recently in other areas of the country.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Finding the Central America Treasure

Bob Evans, the Chief Scientist and Vice-President of the Columbus America Discovery Group, spoke to the young people at the "Coins 4 Kids" program on Saturday afternoon, and he was also the featured speaker at PAN's Saturday evening banquet - with all eyes and ears focused on his story and his impressive color slide photos.

Here are just a few of the facts he presented:

The "Gold Rush" of the 1850s meant that 70- to 80,000 folks dashed to California, hoping for overnight riches. Actually, few of the gold miners made a fortune -- but a lot of money was taken in by the assayers (testers of the ore) and the sellers of supplies (such as shovels, picks and pans).

Fortunes in gold were shipped down to Panama, then across the isthmus, where they were loaded on another ship headed for the east coast - usually New York City.

## The Greatest Lost Treasure

The Central America was one of those "treasure ships" -- in fact, it carried what would prove to be the greatest lost treasure in U.S. history. This was a wooden, side-wheeler ship, on the last leg of (what was

normally) a 23-day trip from California to New York.

## A Deadly Hurricane

Previously, no steamships making the trip from Panama to New York had been lost due to storms, but the Central America encountered a truly violent hurricane on September 10, 1857. Besides the battering wind and waves, the rain made all of the coal soaking wet - so the ship lost its power. At that point, the ship was doomed.

## Life Savers

It was 100 miles east of the Carolina coast - a very risky position for any shipwreck. There was some good news, however. The water temperature was about 85 degrees, so that anyone in the water could last a long time. And another ship soon came into view - a brig (that is, a square-rigged sailing ship) - which was able to save about 100 passengers, primarily women and children, from the Central America. Later, a bark (a small, three-masted ship) was able to save about 50 more people.

Amazingly, another three of the passengers were saved three weeks later, about 400 miles north of the disaster!

The bad news -- besides the loss of

the treasure -- was that about 400 passengers were lost. However, virtually all of the women and children aboard the Central America were saved -- except for an 11-year-old Mexican boy. And Naval Captain William Herndon, in the tradition of that profession, went down with his ship.

#### The Salvage Efforts

As Mr. Evans pointed out, the salvaging of shipwrecks is a high-risk venture. In this case, the research plus the actual search at sea took 18 years.

After the research had determined the likely shipwreck location, computers were used to map the likely areas of the wreck -- and sonar was used to narrow down the area until it was discovered.

Because the wreck was about 2,000 meters (8,500 feet) below the surface, it was impossible simply to send down divers. The salvage company actually spent a full year focusing on the wrong shipwreck.

#### Success, Finally

The salvage ship was a 180-foot trawler, with the latest types of high tech equipment used to track down the Central America. Finally, in 1989, they had the right location, and remote control devices were able to bring up the cargo -- which included over a ton of gold.

The season for searching and sal-

vaging was generally from mid-June to mid-September. As noted, it was too deep for diving suits -- or submersibles, for that matter -- so a robot did the task of bringing up the coins, gold bars and other "goodies."

A very impressive exhibit of the Central America salvaging operations and recovered treasures has been a highlight at several big numismatic shows -- including the American Numismatic Association Conventions.

Highlights of the sale of these treasures have also been featured in coin and currency publications for the past year. One of those highlights just appeared recently -- a report of the sale of a gold bar from the ship.

#### Record-Breaking Sale

As headlined in the numismatic press, it was stated to be "the largest known transaction in history for a single numismatic item!" The object being sold was an 80-pound assay bar of gold retrieved from the S.S. Central America. Produced by the Kellogg and Humbert assay firm, it was dubbed the "Eureka bar" - because it was the largest such ingot in the Central America treasures. And the price it realized? \$8,000,000. That is, eight million bucks! Such figures boggle the mind. And we were lucky to have Bob Evans at our October PAN Show.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Why a Three-Cent Coin ?

by Dick Duncan

Folks unfamiliar with our hobby are generally amazed to hear of some of the strange denominations of coins that occurred in our nation's history. For example, why on earth would our country (or any country) issue a three-cent coin?

You and I know of other unusual denominations, of course -- such as a two-cent piece, one called a half-dime, a three dollar gold piece, etc.

But let's confine this primarily to the three-cent piece. One thing that still seems strange to me is that our country had more than one coin -- of different metallic contents -- with the same value, during the same period of time.

## Two Three-Cent Pieces?

The three-cent piece is an example. During a period of about eight years -- from 1865 to 1873 -- the United States issued a silver three-cent piece as well as a nickel three-cent piece. Why? Well, let's start at the beginning. Why, in the first place, did our forefathers decide to issue this denomination?

We had already had a two-cent coin, made of copper, which was issued beginning in 1864, during the Civil War. The idea for that one, apparently, was to mint a variation on the



## The Silver Three-Cent Piece

cent -- partly because the one-cent copper coins did not seem to be circulating. The answer to the lack of circulation was the war itself.

## Paper Money? Forget it!

That is, the nation's finances were being stretched by the costs of war, and the government issued paper money -- which had not been popular during the Revolutionary War, but our nation's leaders decided they'd try it again. What happens when you first issue paper money? It drives the coins out of circulation. Before the Civil War, every coin contained its face value in metal (i.e. a cent contained a cent's worth of copper, a dime contained ten cents worth of silver, and so forth), but, of course, paper money's value is only what the government says it is worth.

Clearly, the amount of paper in a \$100 note is the same as that in a \$1 note -- so the citizens must trust the government which says its resources will back up the value given to each piece of paper money.

#### Save the “good” money

Folks were not sure they could trust the government at that time -- or for that matter, which one (the north or south) would end up being the victor, and thus deciding which money would have lasting value. So, the safe answer was to squirrel away their coins, which would always have value.

Incidentally, the two-cent piece did not prove to be a great idea. It did have one redeeming quality -- being the first (of most U.S. coins) to declare our trust in God -- but it was not very popular. It lasted just nine years . . . and then disappeared.

#### A two? Then, why not a three?

In any case, having issued a two-cent piece, the folks in Washington may have become acclimated to considering other unusual denominations. A two-cent piece was issued -- so why not a three? That idea was suggested in 1849.

Probably the “clincher” was its potential use for postage. The price of a first-class stamp had recently been increased to three cents (Ah, the good old days!), so perhaps a

coin worth three cents would prove to be useful for purchasing stamps. Another reason given for issuing three-cent pieces: perhaps it would relieve the demand for large cents.

#### Our Smallest Coin

Such is the working of the political mind. On March 3, 1851, Congress authorized the minting of a silver three-cent piece -- also called a “Trime” -- which, at 14 mm in diameter, would be the smallest of all United States silver coins. The designer was James B. Longacre.

The composition initially, from 1851 to 1853, was 75 percent silver and 25 percent copper. Then it was changed to 90 percent silver and 10 percent copper. That’s the same composition as virtually all silver U.S. coins -- up to 1964, when clad coins were introduced.

Incidentally, the word “smallest” refers to silver coins. The first type of gold dollar, issued in 1849, was actually a fraction smaller -- just 13 mm -- but in 1851, the gold dollar coin became 14 mm in diameter.

#### The Lightest Coin

You can also refer to “smallest” in terms of weight. The silver three-cent pieces were .80 grams, and reduced to .75 grams in 1854, a weight that continued for the rest of its mintage, ending in 1873. That compares with 1.672 grams of

weight for the gold dollar coins.

This comparison -- smallest by size versus smallest by weight -- can be a good question to use in a numismatic quiz.

### Varieties

There were three varieties of silver three-cent pieces. All were basically the same design, but the six-pointed star had no border from 1851 to 1853. From 1854 to 1858, that star had a border of three lines. Problems developed in striking that second variety - so that most of these coins (1854-1858) found today are weakly struck, particularly on the borders. Then, from 1859 to the end of its minting (1873), the star had a border of two lines.

Also, from 1854 to 1873, there's an olive sprig over the III and a bundle of three arrows beneath the III.

### Popular - Briefly

During the first two or three years of its issue, the silver three-cent coin was the primary silver coin seen in circulation in the U.S. That's because most other silver coins were being exported or melted - due to the value of their silver content. Then, the weight of other silver coins was reduced, so they began circulating again, and the silver three-cent piece quickly became less popular.

The primary production of the silver three cent pieces was in 1851 to 1853. Then, most of the silver coinage of this denomination dated 1860 and later was -- at around 1872 -- melted. In the final year of its issue, 1873, just proof coins were produced, apparently for collectors.



The Nickel Three-Cent Piece

On March 3, 1865, Congress authorized a nickel three-cent piece -- 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel -- which had a somewhat silvery appearance. The idea was that this would replace the silver coin of that denomination. Also, it was intended to replace 3-cent fractional notes. The designer, again, was James B. Longacre.

As I noted above, I had wondered why our country would issue two coins of the same denomination -- but differing in composition and appearance -- over a period of eight years. The answer is that the silver

one hardly circulated after 1862 . . . and after introducing the nickel coin, they apparently wanted to make sure it would be successful, before eliminating its counterpart.

This "nickel" coin was larger and heavier than the silver one -- being 1.94 grams in weight, with a diameter of 17.9 mm.

Showing a face of "Miss Liberty" on the obverse, and the Roman Numerals III on the reverse (similar to the reverse of the silver three cents), its design remained virtually unchanged throughout its mintage - to 1889. You might think of its similarity to the first V-Nickel of 1883. In each case, the denomination appears in Roman Numerals -- without clearly stating the coin is worth "3 cents" or "5 cents." In 1883, however, the V-Nickel ran into trouble because of the possibility of confusing it with a Five-Dollar Gold coin.

#### Not Very Popular

The "powers that be" had high hopes for the nickel three-cent piece. The Philadelphia Mint produced over 11 million pieces in 1865, its first year.

It did not prove nearly as popular as hoped. Mintage was cut in half the second year, and the numbers continued to drop in succeeding years. By 1876, just 162,000 were produced. In the next two years,

only proofs were issued -- for collectors -- and in succeeding years the coinage remained small. In 1881, coinage jumped to 1,080,575 -- perhaps a final attempt to push its use -- but numbers were again greatly diminished until the coin was discontinued entirely in 1889.

Incidentally, that same year -- 1889 -- the \$3 Gold Piece also reached the end of its usefulness, and was discontinued. Somewhat the same reasoning had been used when the \$3 Gold Piece was introduced.

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Information appearing in the above article comes primarily from *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, by R.S. Yeoman; and *The History of United States Coinage - as illustrated by the Garrett Collection*, by Q. David Bowers.

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were not appreciated by collectors w  
were used to the Seated design nor  
the public offer approval.

The obverse portrait of the dime, a  
and half of the series is the same;  
reverse of the quarter and half fea  
heraldic eagle, the dime a wreath  
Collectors at the time referred to  
the Morgan series despite the p  
initial "B" for designer Barber c  
neck.

The highest part of the coin is  
Liberty's headband where LF  
located; the sharpness or vis  
such is the key to the grade  
other hand, the same criter  
determine grade on the Se  
and the word LIBERTY is  
protected and endures m  
Odd.

The Coinage Act of 189  
"no change in the desi  
coin shall be made of  
25 years . . ." Mint I  
Woolly interpreted th  
new designs would  
1916, that being th  
existing Barber co

**WALKING LIBERTY H**

The design of this half dollar de  
Miss Liberty with the folds of t  
Stars & Stripes flying in the bre  
as a background. The branch  
mintmarks were placed on the  
obverse of the 1916 coins and  
during the first part of 1917 s  
the year 1917 five different c  
collect! After, the mintmark  
changed to the reverse at 7

A familiar problem occurre  
the higher obverse relief re  
"weakly struck" coins. The  
itself, though common, is  
grammar. Coinage presses  
enough pressure to bring  
details up fine. The prob  
spaced together during t  
process, the sharper the  
the metal as the planch  
up into the deepest rec  
dies. But this caused it  
wear faster thus needi  
frequent replacement  
dies wider apart redu  
many details are wea  
Collectors and dealde

**MORGAN DOLLAR**

Under the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 the  
Treasury was required to purchase at  
market price \$2-\$4 million worth of silver  
per month to coin into silver dollars, no  
matter what the commercial needs were or  
the price of silver. The Act also introduced  
a new kind of paper money, the silver  
certificate.

The Carson City mint silver dollar is a  
favorite among collectors. But why is the  
mintage so low compared to the other  
mints? At the time it was recommended  
that silver for delivery at Carson City be  
purchased only when the rates of transport  
did not exceed the cost of bullion at the  
other mints. Therefore, coinage was  
suspended periodically, even affecting the  
final blow to the Carson City Mint came in  
1895 when it was discovered that some  
ingots were leaving the melting rooms  
much lighter than their stamped weight  
and value. An investigation revealed over  
\$75,000 of gold was missing - operations  
were suspended and most employees laid  
off.

During late 1972 and 1974 and again in  
1980 the General Services Administration  
of the US government conducted seven  
mail order sales of near 3 million "CC"  
silver dollars with gross sales of \$107  
million.

**PAN DECKS**

### THE FINAL PAN-DECKS !

At the PAN Coin Convention, held October 26-28 at the Pittsburgh ExpoMart in Monroeville, PA, the final set of three "PAN-DECKS" cards were given to more than 60 youngsters who attended the "Coins 4 Kids" program.

A total of 12 cards have now been issued - three at each of the PAN Shows in 2000 and 2001.

The final set features Barber coinage, the Walking Liberty Half and the Morgan Dollar. The photo side of the card has information on that particular denomination. The card's reverse has at-a-glance stats including designer, years minted and low-mintage dates. This is followed by a quiz. Coin photos were provided by *Coin World*.

The cards are held together by a screw (as sold by Capital Plastics), and kids are encouraged to visit local coin shops to request a set of the screws.

The cards have been offered to young collectors under 18 residing in PA. Now, however, youngsters under 18 from any state can get them - while they last.

Simply send a self-addressed and stamped business-size envelope to:

Kathy Sarosi, PAN President  
PAN COINS 4 KIDS  
106 Market Street  
Johnstown, PA 15907

The cards, numbered, were limited to a total of 1,000 of each denomination.

# Update on PAN's Grant Program

What's the story with the big cash gifts that PAN gave away in our Grant program? Actually, within the past two years, our organization gave two such grants -- \$2,000 each time -- to a person involved in numismatic research.

Both of the PAN grants awarded so far went to the same person: Dick Johnson of Litchfield, Connecticut.

## A Mammoth Undertaking

A well-qualified numismatic researcher and author, Johnson is working on an extensive research project, a book that will summarize the work of over 3,000 American artists, die sinkers, engravers and medallic sculptors -- from 1652 to the present time.

As he got further into the subject, it seemed to continue to expand in scope and complexity -- with his research requiring extensive travel in the eastern United States. That included such locations as Harvard and Yale Universities, the Newark, N.J. Museum, the U.S. Library of Congress, the U.S. Patent Office, the American Numismatic Society and the Smithsonian Institution.

When his research began, about five years ago, Johnson had no idea of the eventual scope of the project.

Now, he says that the number of individual coins and medals he has recorded quite possibly exceeds 15,000.

## Unknown Artists

He says, "One of the most dramatic things I learned from all this research: Eighty percent of all 19th century medals and tokens are unsigned and undocumented. Perhaps the identities of (many of the) creators are lost forever. One purpose of my research is that this will not happen for the numismatic items of the 20th and 21st centuries."

## Many Varieties

He adds that, "The categories -- not just coins and medals -- now total 27. Perhaps it's not surprising that there have been some recent innovations: bullion coins and medals, multi-part medals, medallic objects and mixed media medals. Clearly, the creation of our numismatic objects is not a static art."

His research is focusing on every coin and medal issued in America, plus foreign items with American themes. The publication will include all die-struck and cast items, identified by their artistic creator. It will also include bas-relief sculptural items under 18 inches, if

intended to be reproduced in metal.

He had hoped to have his reference work near to completion this year, so it could be published in late 2001 -- but in recent months, the projected publication date has been moved ahead to the Spring of 2002.

Incidentally, *Coin World* reports that Dick Johnson was the first Editor of that publication.

Let's hope we can view the results of this extensive numismatic project in the near future.

The information in the above article comes from a story that appeared in *Coin World*.

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Yes, We'll Miss Frank Gasparro

Yes, all numismatists should miss this "legend" of our hobby. On September 29, Frank Gasparro passed away in Havertown, Pennsylvania's Mercy Community Hospital. Former Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint, Mr. Gasparro was 92 years old.

He was born in Philadelphia in 1909, just three weeks after the Lincoln Cent was introduced. Fifty years later, his design of the Lincoln Memorial was selected as the new reverse of that coin.

His artistic abilities were evident way back in his grade school days, when he took classes at the Samuel Fleisher Art Memorial School. After graduating from South Philadelphia High School, Gasparro continued his art education, taking private lessons from Giuseppe Donato, whose background included work with Rodin. Gasparro also attended the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

His professional career began at age 23, when he worked as a free-lance sculptor. Five years later, he joined the staff of the Federal Art Administration, a part of Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression.

In 1942, he became an assistant engraver at the U. S. Mint, located in

Philadelphia. In 1965, he was appointed Chief Engraver by President Lyndon Johnson. Succeeding Gilroy Roberts in this position, Gasparro remained in this post until his retirement on January 16, 1981.

Coinage for which he will be remembered - in addition to the Lincoln Memorial reverse on the cent - includes the reverse of the Kennedy Half Dollar (the obverse of which was done by Gilroy Roberts), and the portraits on many medals. A medal showing the portrait of actor John Wayne continues to be the most popular bronze medal with the public.

In fact, while he was the Chief Engraver at the U.S. Mint, he supervised the production of about 20,000 dies a year for all of this country's coinage and medals.

John Mercanti, sculptor-engraver at the Mint, states that, "His work ethic was unsurpassed." Mercanti adds that Gasparro would never pass a cent on the sidewalk without picking it up. "It was personal with him, because he did it."

PAN's Don Carlucci, a friend of Gasparro, says he was a remarkable talent whose work has been enjoyed by the world for decades.

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# The Outstanding Numismatist in Central Pennsylvania

Lester A. White, President of the Waynesboro, PA Coin Club, has just been named the "Outstanding Numismatist in Central Pennsylvania."

The award was presented at the annual banquet of the Red Rose Coin Club on November 15 in Lancaster. Initiated by the Harrisburg Coin Club in 1966 (and named for deceased member, James Wagner, an outstanding numismatist), the award has been presented annually since 1966.

Also nominated for the award by area clubs were Henry B. Harbage, West Chester Coin Club; Mortimer Kadushin, Red Rose Coin Club; and W. "Mel" Melnick, Conrad Weiser Coin Club of Elizabethtown, PA.

Awards Chairman Dick Duncan said each of the nominees was worthy of the award, but White's background is truly outstanding.

Nominated by the Waynesboro, PA Coin Club, White actually lives in Westminster, MD. He has served several times as President of the Waynesboro Club as well as the Carroll County, MD Coin Club and



Lester White (right) receives traveling trophy and plaque - which he keeps - from Red Rose President Steve Benedict.

the Parkway Coin and Stamp Club. He is also active in the Maryland Token and Medal Society, the Maryland State Numismatic Association and the American Numismatic Association.

A professional numismatist and coin dealer in Westminster, MD, White has frequently exhibited, provided educational programs, and spoken on numismatic topics to clubs, schools, Boy Scouts and a senior center. He has also authored several articles in numismatic publications.

# MONEY TALKS: The Numismatic Radio Show

MONEY TALKS is a one-minute radio spot produced by the A.N.A. in Colorado Springs. They run daily, and each covers a different topic related to coins, medals, tokens or paper money. It began on Public Radio in 1992, and now reaches more than 500 stations across the United States.

This one was broadcast Sept. 30, 1998.

## Sarah and the Indian Head Cent

by Thomas LaMarre

What was the first coin to picture a Native American? If your answer is the "Indian Head" penny, you'd better think again.

The Indian Head cent made its debut in 1859. By the turn of the century, so many had been made that, if they were stacked one on top of the other, they would have formed a column nearly six miles high. And almost as prevalent as the coins themselves, was the myth that Sarah Longacre was the model for the Indian Head design.

Legend says that young Sarah visited her father, Chief Engraver James Longacre, at the U.S. Mint. That same day, a delegation of Indian Americans was touring the Mint -- and its chief let Sarah wear his headdress. The effect was so striking that James Longacre made a sketch of his daughter, and used it as the design for the new coin.

Although the story is almost as old as the Indian Head cent itself, Longacre's successor, Charles Barber, insisted it was just "an example of the fertility of a newspaperman's mind." Barber said it was impossible to determine whom or what Longacre had used as a model for his Indian Head . . . but he

If you'd like to hear the show on your local airwaves, write to your public broadcasting station and request MONEY TALKS. It's provided free of charge. For info, contact: Education Director, American Numismatic Assn., 818 North Cascade Ave., Colo. Springs, CO 80903. (Phone (719) 632-2646)

was certain it was neither Sarah Longacre, nor an Indian war bonnet. To support his claim, Barber noted that Miss Liberty's features on the 1849 \$20 gold piece were "precisely the same" as on the penny . . . and it was designed before Sarah was even born!

Despite Barber's comments, a distant relative of Sarah Longacre delighted in telling the story to reporters, and the myth refused to die. Apparently, Sarah herself enjoyed the limelight, and never bothered to set the record straight.

And it that makes you wonder what were the first U.S. coins to picture an authentic Native American . . . the answer is the 1908 "Indian Head" \$2-1/2 and \$5 gold pieces.

This has been "Money Talks." Today's program was written by Thomas LaMarre and underwritten by Whitman Coin Products, a division of Golden Books, the right choice for coin collecting books and supplies. "Money Talks" is a copyrighted production of the American Numismatic Association, 818 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719/632-2646, ana @money.org.<http://www.money.org>

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# The ANA Convention

## -- 100 Years Ago

The activities -- and attendance -- at a national Convention of the American Numismatic Association were quite different 100 years ago.

The officers were widely scattered, and communications between them somewhat sparse and irregular-- so that annual meetings (perhaps they shouldn't even be classified as "conventions") were also somewhat irregular and attendance uncertain.

### In a Doctor's Office

The annual meeting, scheduled for August 22, 1901, took place in Buffalo, New York, coinciding with the Pan American Exposition in that city. The A.N.A. meeting location: the offices of Dr. Wright, at 158 Pearl Street. The A.N.A.'s publication, the *Numismatist*, reported:

"The convention at Buffalo was in every way a success. Promptly at 10 a.m., the members began to put in an appearance at Dr. Wright's office, the first being Miss Eaton and the Secretary, who met each other at the elevator going up, and who asked to be put off at the Doctor's office, immediately mistook each other for patients. The error was, however, soon remedied and in the course of the half hour, the healthiest and jolliest crowd that ever assembled in a doctor's office were in eager consultation, and as well



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acquainted as if they had known each other for years, instead of, as in most instances, meeting for the first time.

### Women, too!

"This is the first meeting of our Association when ladies have honored the occasion by their presence at our sessions. Miss Eaton being present as a member, also Mrs. W.O. Buck, a member by proxy. It is hoped this innovation will be more fully observed in the future, and that our lady members and the wives and daughters of our members may often and always grace our conventions.

"The contents of Dr. Wright's elegant cabinets of coins were opened to the inspection of the members during the day, and the days following, as individual members returned to the

local mecca, and at least one became so infatuated over it that he went home on Saturday night without even visiting the (Pan American) Exposition.

"Mr. H.E. Deats, and Mr. W.C. Stone, who had been engaged in other work in the city during the morning, did not report until after our adjournment. At 3 p.m., all work being accomplished, adjournment at the call of the President was made and the general hegira to the Exposition grounds took place. There, in the midst of the mists of the Midway, we gradually but surely missed one another..."

#### Farran Zerbe

Another item in the *Numismatist* in 1901 noted that Farran Zerbe of Tyrone, PA had just acquired a hoard of 4,000 Civil War tokens and store cards. A.N.A. members would hear a lot more about Zerbe in the following years (and his name now appears on the A.N.A.'s top award).

This was also the tenth anniversary of the A.N.A., which had its birth in 1891 in Chicago, Illinois. The Editor of the *Numismatist*, Dr. George Heath, reminisced on the organization after ten years:

#### A.N.A. Growing Pains

"It was just 10 years ago that a few of us gathered in Chicago and organized the American Numismatic Association. Of the 61 charter members at that time, only 16 are with

us today. The fact, however, remains that in spite of our great defections, the Association has made rapid progress. Never before has it been so prosperous, and never was its future so bright and promising as it is now."

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The facts in the above article come from *The American Numismatic Association CENTENNIAL HISTORY*, by Q. David Bowers, issued in 1991.

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## Show Calendar

Dec. 15 - Allentown, PA - Allentown/Bethlehem Coin/Stamp Show, Merchants Square Mall, 12th and Vultee Streets.

Jan. 18-20 - New York City - New York Intl. Numismatic Convention, Waldorf Astoria Hotel, 301 Park Avenue, New York City.

Jan. 9-13 - Orlando, FL - Florida United Numismatists (FUN) Show, Orange County Convention Center.

Feb. 23,24 - Wintersville, OH - Ohio Valley Coin Assn. Coin Show, Saint Florian Hall (w.of Steubenville OH at 286 Luray Drive - off Rte. 43).

Mar. 21-24 - Baltimore, MD - Suburban Washington Baltimore Show, Baltimore Convention Center.

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May 3-5 - Monroeville, PA - Pennsylvania Assn. of Numismatists (PAN) Convention, Pittsburgh ExpoMart, Route 22 (PA Turnpike Exit 6).

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w/1938 Jefferson Nickel 1934-1940 .....	\$675.00		
1941.....	\$52.50	1944 .....	\$47.00
1942.....	\$44.00	1945 .....	\$42.50
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1943.....	\$46.50	1947 .....	\$55.50
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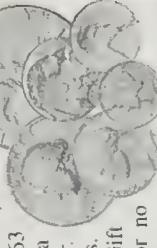
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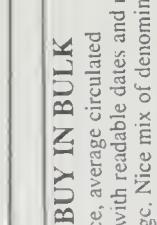
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